THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of sugar factories in the country during 2002-2003 were 496. Though it is premature to estimate the number of sugar mills during 2005-06, the sugar factories as on 31.10.2005 were 571.

(c) Question does not arise.

Complaints by MPs

2623. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that letters/correspondence pertaining to complaints by the MPs are not being responded to by his Ministry;

(b) the details of the letters/correspondence from January, 2005 till date addressed to his Ministry by the Members of Parliament;

(c) whether any such letter pertaining to complaint against the violation of condition by some magazines in New Delhi is pending for reply;

(d) the status on this letter/correspondence till date, alongwith the action taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (e) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

BIS on technical barriers to trade agreement

2624. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bureau of Indian Standards has been entrusted with the task to work on technical barriers to trade agreement;